Welcome!

In an age marked by the persistent catastrophes of colonialism, climate change, austerity, inequality, gendered and raced violence, state and non-state terrorism, post-democratic practices, and ‘preemptive policing,’ we call for a coming together around the common purpose of critical geographical engagement. Inspired by Richa Nagar and Susan Geiger, as well as Paul Routledge and Kate Derickson, we mobilize the idea of “Situated Solidarities” to inspire alternative forms of geographic practice and thought. For in the context of the catastrophic status quo, terrains of possibility remain open through a range of variously scaled initiatives. We ask: In what ways can counter-hegemonic politics and thought be enacted during the current conjuncture?

#critgeog2016


Why the fish?

You may have been wondering about all the fish! Our conference graphic has evolved from Leo Lionni’s children’s book *Swimmy* (1973). In the book, Swimmy draws on the collective power of small fish to work together against a bully. It’s a great story about what small fishy bodies can do! And yet we couldn’t help but notice that of all the little fish, only Swimmy was different, special, and able to organize them into a body. So for us, the story of Swimmy didn’t go far enough! Our vision was of a multiplicity of singularities coming together, coming apart, and making new arrangements loosely bound by affinity and alliance. Flows and forces abound, and the future is not determined, the categories are not fixed.. The big fish are not really so big. The small fish are not really so inconsequential. The minor is making itself at home in the major, altering it and creating new possibilities. The fish art is collective; we swim together and apart. It turns out that each of us is already several fish! We hope you enjoy the swim.

In these times of austerity, precarity and exception, I consider last year’s Climate Justice mobilisations in Paris, France to interrogate the work of Jacques Ranciere and Chantal Mouffe on the political. For Ranciere, politics is characterized by dissensus: the appearance of subjects in a re-figured space so as to be seen and heard in it. The practice of dissensus places one world into another, if only momentarily, and makes visible the partiality of the order of the police. Meanwhile Mouffe argues that it is critical that such subjects are configured into a counter-hegemonic “we” fashioned through chains of equivalence that embody a “collective will across differences”, waging a Gramscian war of position against a multiplicity of “nodal points of power that need to be targeted and transformed” (2013: 75). However, Ranciere and Mouffe tell us little about the spatial politics associated with political interventions against such multiple nodes of power in order for the excluded to be seen and heard (or what those nodes might be). In this talk I argue for a spatial politics of intervention across multiple nodes of power, and suggest nine interventions in which space might be re-figured in the context of the current conjuncture.
Collective Engagement

Gaines Center
232 E Maxwell St
Activist Imaginaries

This panel explores the potential for political action and thought that inheres in a range of spaces, movements, rebellions, and affective atmospheres. Panelists will open an inclusive discussion on protest imaginaries, utopias, and practices.

Organizer: Anna Secor  
University of Kentucky

Panelists:
- Sarah Stinard-Kiel  
Temple University
- Justin Tse  
Northwestern University
- Yasin Southall  
Community and Political Organizer
- Keith Woodward  
University of Wisconsin
- Jess Linz  
University of Kentucky
- Anna Secor  
University of Kentucky
- Mikko Joronen  
University of Tampere, Finland

(Re)Making Cities

The urban environment is a stage for politics of race, social justice, economic justice, gentrification, community and more to perform. Panelists will explore these themes in the context of various cities from around the globe and discuss what type of futures may evolve from the present. The panel will start with contributions from the panelists followed by audience questions and collective guided discussion.

Organizer: Marissa DeFratti  
University of Kentucky

Panelists:
- Jesse Mumm  
DePaul University
- Heather Squire  
Temple University
- Katie Wilborn  
University of Kentucky
- Kristin Monroe  
University of Kentucky
- Sam Kay  
Ohio State University
- Coleman Allums  
University of Georgia

9:00 - 10:30
Atmospheres—climatic, toxic, financial—are building into storm-clouds of compounding crisis, looming. At the same time, there is a sense of something-other floating everywhere, an affective atmosphere of liberatory possibility. Undergrounds are beginning to rupture: spilling pipelines and the rising up of every kind of local resistance. How do we create connections between local and global forms of resistance, and negotiate the relationship between large-scale policy and local implementation, between the atmosphere and its underground? We investigate working presents, imagined futures, new moral imaginaries, and economies of power.
Regulating Bodies: Laws, Norms, Force

CB 204  Law both reflects and constitutes societal norms. As such, what does it look like to contest not only laws regulating racialized, sexualized, and gendered bodies, but also the ways laws produce bodies and identities? Further, how do we contest the discursive construction of law’s power? This panel interrogates both oppressive bodily regulations and the ways we research them. It engages law through codified state law and enforcement; bounded spaces; law’s technologies of surveillance; legally mandated reforms; and the legal culture of white supremacy. It also considers the ways oppressive legal regulation engenders spaces and discourses of resistance—and methods for researching resistance.

Organizer: Emily Kaufman
University of Kentucky

Panelists:
- Joshua Inwood
Penn State
- Jennifer McGibbon
The Ohio State University
- Katherine Stearns
University of Kentucky
- Tyler Wall
Eastern Kentucky University
- Nicholas Ferris Lustig
University at Buffalo, SUNY
- Judah Script
Eastern Kentucky University
- Joaquin Villanueva
Gustavus Adolphus College
- Robin Wright
University of Minnesota

Solidarities Across the Lines of (Under) Development and (Un) Belonging

CB 208  This panel brings together thinking on diverse cases worldwide in which narratives of division are imposed along the lines dividing migrant and local, minority and majority, developed and underdeveloped. In the aftermath of apartheid or in the present-tense of developmentalist settlement policies, and with a backdrop of increasing migration of all sorts, we ask what solidarities might be employed to transcend or subvert state-imposed divisions that threaten migrants, refugees, and those variously categorized as not belonging.

Organizer: Leif Johnson
University of Kentucky

Panelists:
- Aklilu Reda
University of Kentucky
- Charles Kaye-Essien
Sullivan University
- Utkarsh Pandey
United Nations Development Program
- Kharum Farrukh
Brock University
- Tyler Wall
Eastern Kentucky University
- Robin Wright
University of Minnesota
Activism occupies a precarious position within academia. On one hand, activist spirit is essential to guiding research that seeks to effect change. On the other, the practice of scholar-activism comes up against many limitations, from scholarly-ordained legitimacy to ethical concerns. This panel addresses some of the issues involved in conceptualizing and actualizing scholar-activism: How do we navigate our role in critiquing and constructing knowledge? How can we align scholarship with community concerns? What tensions arise between the discursive goals of scholarship and the everyday political world beyond it? Is it possible to transform the status quo through scholarship, and if so, how?

Organizer: Jacob Ertel  
University of Kentucky

Panelists:  
Margath Walker  
University of Louisville  
Manon Lefèvre  
University of Kentucky  
Oliver Froehling  
University of Kentucky  
Olivia Williams  
Florida State University  
Laura Daly  
University of California, Davis

CB 212

Lunch on Your Own. Or with Friends!
This panel will confront the ways in which scholarship can be engaged in ongoing situated political struggles. We will ask participants to question their commitment to engaged scholarship rooted in particular experiences of scholarly practice, both in the field and at their home institutions, and provide a space for panelists to ask questions of each other and the audience. We will begin by inviting panelists to reflect on their work before proceeding to a “speed-dating” format.

---

**Scholar-Activism: Questioning Practices**

**CB 204**

Organizer: Manon Lefevre  
*University of Kentucky*

Panelists:  
- Jenna Christian  
  *Pennsylvania State University*  
- Eric Goldfischer  
  *University of Minnesota*  
- Austin Kocher  
  *The Ohio State University*  
- Kristine Ratnaprucks  
  *Holy Names University/ SURCO*

- Katherine Stearns  
  *University of Kentucky*

- Jeremy Crampton  
  *University of Kentucky*

- Aaron Kerr  
  *Gannon University*

- Eli Meyerhoff  
  *Duke University*

- Caroline Keegan  
  *University of Georgia*

---

**Shaking Up the University**

**CB 208**

Organizer: Araby Smyth  
*University of Kentucky*

Panelists:  
- Kelsey Brain  
  *Pennsylvania State University*  
- Jacob Ertel  
  *University of Kentucky*  
- Matthew Rosenblum  
  *University of Kentucky*

- Dugan Meyer  
  *University of Kentucky*

- Marcia England  
  *Miami University*  
- Dugan Meyer  
  *University of Kentucky*

- Araby Smyth  
  *University of Kentucky*
In his work on culture and imperialism, Said's discussion of the “past's presence” is central to understanding colonial modernity as an organizing logic whose past is never finished, but persists and materializes in old and new ways. This panel addresses how the mutually reinforcing dynamics of coloniality and race present themselves in the archives and texts of our everyday lives. Engaging in a materialist approach with archives at sites where colonial and anti-black logics manifest through documents, data management, and cultural and literary artifacts, we consider how they may open up sites for the necessary work of allowing alternative futurities to emerge.

Race, Coloniality, and the Archive of Modernity

CB 212

In his work on culture and imperialism, Said’s discussion of the “past’s presence” is central to understanding colonial modernity as an organizing logic whose past is never finished, but persists and materializes in old and new ways. This panel addresses how the mutually reinforcing dynamics of coloniality and race present themselves in the archives and texts of our everyday lives. Engaging in a materialist approach with archives at sites where colonial and anti-black logics manifest through documents, data management, and cultural and literary artifacts, we consider how they may open up sites for the necessary work of allowing alternative futurities to emerge.

Organizer
Osama Abdl-Haleem
University of Kentucky

Panelists
Michelle Dreiding
University of Zurich

Dani Aiello
University of Georgia

Benjamin Rubin
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Aaron Mallory
University of Minnesota

Maegan Miller
Graduate Center, CUNY

Coffee and Doughnuts
Futurity, Prefigurative Politics, and Utopia

How do we think futurity within our present political conjuncture? From the queer aesthetics of Jose Muñoz to the neofascist emergence of Donald Trump, this session examines the way future worlds subsist and proliferate within our existent political orders. Panelists will engage the question of time ‘out-of-joint’ from a range of perspectives: the prefigurative politics of anarchist struggle, queer orientations towards politics, the possibilities and dangers of a communist utopianism, and, lastly, the global rise of fascist movements around the globe. What image of time can we mobilize to disrupt the status quo and query the revolutionary possibilities of another world?

Panelists
- Organizer: Curtis Pomilia, University of Kentucky
- Panelists: Jim Tyner, Kent State University; Arun Saldanha, University of Minnesota; Alec Foster, University of Michigan; Christine Woodward, University of Kentucky; Curtis Pomilia, University of Kentucky

Loud and Unlikely Acts

Where must we look for the stuff— the words, the stages, the imaginaries— with which to build a radical future? Everywhere squeezed by mobile topographies of silence and exploitation, it is a struggle to act together. Our discussion begins here, with the very unlikeliness of our collective projects. We are confronting a world in which our differences, our labors, our emotions, and even our demands themselves are constantly in danger of being turned back against us. And yet we find a radical remainder drifting out from beneath closed doors or spilling over the banks of familiar channels; we might even find it on the water, out beyond the limiting frames of the state. Here we look together toward this remainder and ask, how do we turn up the volume?

Panelists
- Organizer: Dugan Meyer, University of Kentucky
- Panelists: Laçin Tutalar, University of Kentucky; Lauren Hudson, Graduate Center, CUNY; Maayan Amir, Exterritory/Haifa University; Dugan Meyer, University of Kentucky; Martina Caretta, West Virginia University; Sara Black, University of Georgia
Dinner on Your Own. 
Or with Friends!

Dance Party

Soundbar
208 S Limestone
Pancake Breakfast

The 90
440 Hilltop Ave